

At-Home Test Guidance for CI and CT Staff



[Per the memo linked here](#), case investigators and contact tracers may encounter situations in which individuals have received a result via one of two home testing options:

- **At-home *collection* devices** (such as [Pixel](#)) allow an individual to collect a specimen at home and then send it to a lab for analysis. The result is then reported to NC DHHS by the lab with no special action required. At-home collection devices are **NOT** discussed in this document.
- **At-home *test* devices** (such as Ellume) allow an individual to collect a specimen and also obtain the result directly at home. For a current list of FDA authorized at-home test devices, use the [Emergency Use Authorization for Molecular Diagnostic Tests](#) and [Antigen Diagnostic Tests](#) websites and enter the search term "home test" (including quotes). **This document will cover these at-home *test* devices.**



The information in this document is taken from [the guidance memo](#).
Check with your supervisor and defer to your local protocol to understand how this guidance is being adapted by your LHD.

When should at-home tests be used?

- Results of at-home tests **are recommended** to be used to inform public health actions in situations when testing resources are limited or other results are unavailable. Some examples of situations in which LHDs or schools may choose to accept at-home test results to inform public health actions include the bullets shown on page 2 of [this document](#).
- As at-home tests are not routinely reported to public health, **they are not recommended for routine use in situations when the results of the test significantly impact others** (e.g., situations involving congregate settings, schools, etc.) or when documentation of results is required (e.g., prior to travel or surgery).



How are at-home tests reported and by whom?

- Results of at-home tests are not required to be reported by individuals who take them. They may be reported by a case patient or contact to school, employer, LHD, or CI/CT staff and entered into NC COVID per local guidance and the protocol on the next page.
- For at-home tests ordered by a healthcare provider, individuals who test positive are responsible for immediately reporting the result to the provider. Healthcare providers are responsible for reporting all results to public health for the tests they have ordered.



See next page for recommended action steps on negative and positive test results.



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What actions are recommended in the guidance memo for handling negative and positive results?



- **CCTO:** Per the guidance memo, if an existing contact informs you of receiving an at-home test result, it is recommended that you update their monitoring event with testing details. If the result is positive, it is recommended that you follow **regular protocol** for a contact testing positive and becoming a case patient. **Check with your local protocol to see how the entry of at-home tests into CCTO is being handled at your LHD.**
- **NC COVID:** Per the guidance memo, negative at-home tests should not be routinely entered in NC COVID; however, positive or negative results **MAY be entered per LHD discretion when these results are being used to inform or facilitate public health actions.** Follow the process described in the NC COVID *At-Home Lab Test Job Aid* for details and check with your local protocol to see how the entry of at-home tests into NC COVID is being handled at your LHD.

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